



CITY OF CHICOPEE

MAYOR MICHAEL D. BISSONNETTE

City of Chicopee begins demolition of the former Facemate Buildings in Chicopee Falls.

The former Facemate buildings, vacant since the early 2000's will be razed to prepare the 19 acres for redevelopment as part of the RiverMills at Chicopee Falls Redevelopment Vision.

April 5, 2012 – Chicopee, MA – Mayor Michael D. Bissonnette announced today the beginning of a \$1.60 million building demolition project at the former Facemate site in Chicopee Falls. Vacant since the early 2000's, the 262,000 square feet of former industrial space in five buildings, have deteriorated severely and represent a blight and safety concern to the neighborhood.

Demolition of the Facemate buildings will clear the 19 acres of property and allow for final environmental assessment and any remaining clean-up efforts in preparation for redevelopment as part of RiverMills at Chicopee Falls. The City's new Older Adult Community Center, currently in design, will be the first redevelopment project to locate on the RiverMills property. The Center is slated to open by the end of 2013.

Mayor Bissonnette hailed the demolition project as an historic moment for the City of Chicopee stating, "this project has been years in the making and represents the beginning of the future for Chicopee Falls and the RiverMills redevelopment project." The Mayor continued to describe the project as a key commitment to the City's future. "Facemate and the industries that once thrived here helped build our City. To honor that heritage we must re-make these properties, preserving the Site's story while addressing contemporary community needs."

The City hired Weston & Sampson Engineers of Rocky Hill, Connecticut to prepare demolition and bidding documents. The project was bid in fall 2011 with a contract awarded to McConnell Enterprises of Essex, Massachusetts. McConnell began abatement work in late December 2011 and all demolition work is expected to be complete by early July, 2012.

The Facemate property is part of a larger redevelopment project known as RiverMills at Chicopee Falls. RiverMills encompasses both the former Facemate and Uniroyal properties, totaling some 60 acres. Redevelopment Visioning efforts were completed in December 2010 and resulted in community-driven, market-based options for redevelopment as a mixed-use community nestled within the Chicopee Falls neighborhood. The City's new Older Adult Community Center is the first redevelopment project planned for the property. Mayor Bissonnette thanked the City's RiverMills team for their dedication to the project stating, "we have taken significant steps towards realizing our goals for this project and today we all bear witness to the beginning of the transformation." The City will solicit private development proposals for the remaining Facemate property in summer 2012.